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On March 9, 2005

RONALD A. KOATZ

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S) REGISTRATION NO. 31,774

PATENT

C7564(V) Y2-0548-UNI

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Customer Number:

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Attorney Docket No.:

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Applicant:

Ashcroft et al.

Serial No.:

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Examiner: Alexander Markoff Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

March 9, 2005

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

The subject Preliminary Amendment is intended to introduce amendments (e.g., to claims 1 and 42) which were not entered with the Amendment mailed January 19, 2005 because the document was considered non-compliant.

Specifically, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.